



CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the St. Louis Region Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Centers

The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

&

The Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2004/January 2005

Winter Trout Fishing at Busch

By Marvin Boyer, Fisheries Management Biologist

Good news for the year-round angler! August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in St. Charles County is kicking off the winter trout program again. Rainbow and brown trout will be stocked in five lakes from November through February.

Trout fishing in the St. Louis Region is growing in popularity and outstanding fishing opportunities are available. The Missouri Department of Conservation is stocking rainbow trout in Busch Lakes 22, 23 and 24 which are managed as put-and-take fisheries under statewide regulations, except that only one pole may be used on all the trout lakes November 1 through January 31. Anglers with a trout permit can harvest up to 5 trout per day **and** may fish with bait if they prefer. These lakes are stocked twice a month from November to February. The fishing is typically excellent at these lakes during the winter. Busch Lakes 21 and 28 are managed as catch-and-release for trout between November 1 and January 31. These lakes are stocked twice in the winter with rainbow trout. No natural or scented baits can be used and no trout may be possessed until after January 31.

A trout permit is needed for any angler to harvest trout and a Missouri fishing license is required for anglers between the ages of 16 and 65.



A successful and happy fisherman enjoying Busch CA's Winter Trout Fishing Lakes.

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Important note- The statewide trout limit will change to four beginning in March 2005.

The winter trout program is a super way to introduce people to the sport of fishing. The convenient location and an abundance of trout should make it easy for beginners to get some practice close to home. The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area is a nice place to teach beginners and kids to fish because it is well developed for fishermen, is highly accessible, the trout lakes are relatively obstacle free, and the area has conveniences of restrooms and picnic tables. Bait fishermen will be successful using commercial trout cheeses and meal worms. Some anglers bring several colors and flavors to experiment with. Fly fishermen do well at the catch-and-release lakes. Some excellent fishing can be found when insects are hatching in the evenings. Usually insects hatching in the winter are tiny and successful fishermen frequently use a large fly such as wooly worm or leech followed by a tiny (#20 to #24) nymph. The trout are attracted to the big fly, but most frequently eat the smaller fly. The best advice is to switch flies frequently until you find the magic fly or combo of flies. The only truly golden rule is that you need light line to consistently catch trout.

Get out and enjoy the outdoors this winter. Now is a great time to introduce someone to the joys of fishing. For more info call the St. Louis Regional Office at (636) 441-4554.

"OSS's On A Mission"

By Kurt Otterstein, Outdoor Skills Specialist

The Missouri Department of Conservation is known for many things, such as its restoration of deer and turkey populations, public lands to hunt, fish, hike, camp and the private land services that we offer. We are also known for abbreviating titles or jobs. When I first started working for the department 3.5 years ago I thought some employees were speaking a foreign language. The military is also known for that. To save space for this article and reading time for you I want to focus on the abbreviation 'OSS'. OSS stands for Outdoor Skills Specialist. There are thirteen OSS throughout the state and their mission is to educate.

Possibly some of you were unaware that MDC, another abbreviation, has a mission statement. The statement reads, "The Mission of the Missouri Department of Conservation is to protect and manage the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the State; to serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities; and to provide for all citizens to, enjoy and learn about fish, forest and wildlife resources."

In the St. Louis Region, which includes eight counties, there are three OSS's to serve you. Their responsibility primarily falls into two large categories. The first is hunter education. In this region, Hunter Education Instructors, who are volunteers, and the OSS's certify approximately 7,000 students who successfully pass the class each year. This class is mandatory for anyone who wants to hunt in the state and was born after January 1, 1967. Once you pass the class, it is good for life and is recognized in all fifty states, Canada and some parts of Mexico. These classes are held throughout the area and are offered free if the class takes place on MDC property. Otherwise, the site might charge up to \$5 per person. Participants must be at least 11 years of age to participate.

The second job of the OSS is getting out into the community and educate them on a variety of outdoor skills such as archery, backpacking, canoeing, firearms training, fishing, map and compass, GPS, outdoor cooking, photography, trapping, historic crafts and much more. We are trying to reach the citizens of Missouri, young and old, to get out and enjoy the outdoors. We go into schools and teach these skills to students who may never have had the opportunity to experience them. The OSS will help instruct Girl and Boy Scouts. We also attend interest group functions as a guest speaker and update them on our educational resources.

The Missouri Department of Conservation works as a team. There are several other departments within our organization striving to achieve similar missions. Please contact us for information on outdoor skills training, interpretive education, forestry, fisheries, protection and resource science questions at our Regional Office 636-441-4554. If you are specifically interested in outdoor skills training or becoming a volunteer please call Dennis Cooke for St. Louis County and St. Louis

Metro area at 314-877-1309, Conrad Mallady for Jefferson, Washington, Franklin and Crawford Counties at 573-468-3335 or Kurt Otterstein for St. Charles, Warren and Lincoln Counties at 636-300-1953 Ext 233.

MDC Shooting Range Program - New Broadhead Archery Range at Busch CA

By Tony Legg, Busch Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Archery ranges at Busch, why that's nothing new. True, the Busch CA has long been a haven for local archery enthusiasts to practice and hold competitions with its 40 yard static range with a 10 foot tower and 4 walking field trail courses. What is new is that previously there has been no place for the bowhunter to go and verify and adjust their sights or aiming point for broadhead tipped arrows.

Previously, all Busch ranges and other ranges around the area only allowed field tips to be used. This new range is designed for the special safety requirements needed to handle arrows with broadhead tips. Due to safety concerns and higher maintenance requirements this range is located at the Busch Shooting Range Area and not at the field archery ranges.



This range offers two shooting pits with shooting lines from 10 to 30 yards. Archers shoot at special 3-D targets and bullseye targets designed for broadheads. These targets are positioned in two pits that feature back, side, and roof walls to contain the arrow. The two pits allow simultaneous shooting at different positions by the placing a safety fence between the two sets of shooting lines and pits. This range is still an ongoing project with new amenities and features being added all the time.

This new range offers the bowhunter a great opportunity to ensure their equipment is ready for that once in a lifetime shot. Use of the range requires the shooter to follow specific posted safety rules, shooters must be experienced and have already zeroed in their bow with field tip arrows. Due to the increased maintenance and special targets, shooters must check in at the range control booth and obtain a usage permit. This permit cost \$3 per hour-per shooter, when a waiting line exists shooters are limited to one hour on the range, however they may obtain an additional permit and get back into line for more shooting.

For more information contact the Busch Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center at (636) 300-1953 ext 251.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Facilities

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

DECEMBER PROGRAMS

NRA Basic Pistol Course

Fri, Dec 3rd 5:30pm and Sat, Dec 4th 8am



The 10-hour course is conducted in two classes. A Friday evening classroom session and a Saturday morning shooting session at the range and 2 hour final session at the classroom. Attendees must be 21 years of age or older. This course **does not** meet the requirements for Missouri's CCW Law. A non-refundable \$7 course fee (in the form of check or money order only to the "Missouri Conservation Heritage Fund") must be received within 14 days of registration. **Pre-registration required.**

Trapping Basics

Sat, Dec 4th 9am and Sun, Dec 5th



Wanting to try your hand at trapping or having problems with nuisance animals? This program will cover all the basics for modern trapping of various species, traps, sets, scents, how to skin and flesh the hide along with stretching. This is a hands-on program after the classroom work on Saturday, attendees will go out on the area and place trap sets for overnight. Sunday morning attendees will then run the set and then process furs. **Pre-registration required.**

Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course

Tue, Dec 7th thru Thu, Dec 9th 5:30pm each night



Hunter Education Certification Course, start time 5:30pm each night, open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test. **Pre-registration.**

Air Rifle Basics for the Beginner (BB and Pellet rifles)

Sat, Dec 11th 9am



Will someone be getting that first air rifle for Christmas? Air rifles have had a long tradition of being one of the first firearms for many youth and families interested in the sport of shooting. Our staff will be conducting a Beginning Air Rifle Program for anyone ages 9 and above. Air rifles and equipment will be provided. **Pre-registration required.**

.22 Caliber Rifle Basics for the Beginner

Sat, Dec 11th 1pm



Interested in learning safety, proper marksmanship fundamentals to enjoy the use of your rifle in hunting or sport shooting for yourself and the family? Busch staff will take you through all the basics for you and your family to handle rifles and enjoy the sport. .22 caliber rifles and ammunition will be provided for all attendees. Youth under 16 must attend with an adult. **Pre-registration required.**

Youth Rabbit Hunting Clinic and Special Hunts

Clinic Sun, 12th Dec, 9am -- Hunts will be drawn at clinic



50 youth (Hunter Ed. graduates 11-15 years old) will receive information in rabbit biology, habitat, hunting safety, hunting techniques, hunting with dogs, and much more. Youth will move to the range for an opportunity to shoot shotguns at clay rabbit targets and work on their shooting skills. These youth will then be drawn for 1 of 5 special 2 and 3 day youth hunts on an area at Busch set aside for these youth only. The youth may bring one youth friend

with them on the hunt, no adults may actually hunt in the youth area. Busch will provide free of charge shotguns and ammunition for those youth without their own. **Pre-registration required.**

Deer/Venison Hamburger & Sausage Making Seminar

Wed, Dec 15th 5:30pm



Wanting to fore go the cost of having someone else process your deer meat? Just wanting to try something new by trying your hand at grinding meat and experimenting with various spices? Well this course is for you. Come and join our staff as we grind and season hamburger and sausage. Attendees will conduct hands-on grinding and will take home a sample of their work. **Pre-registration required.**

Deer / Venison Cooking Seminar

Thu, Dec 16th 5:30pm



Scared of cooking deer meat because of all the horror stories you have heard from others? Just not sure of what you are doing? Well join us as we cook up some simple recipes to temp your taste buds. We will try various different dishes and attendees will conduct hands-on cooking along with sampling their work. **Pre-registration required.**

NRA Basic Shotgun Certification Course

Fri, Dec 17th 5:30pm and Sat, Dec 18th 8am



The 10-hour course is conducted in two classes. A Friday evening classroom session and a Saturday morning shooting session at the range and 2 hour final session at the classroom. Attendees must be 21 years of age or older. A non-refundable \$7 course fee (in the form of check or money order only to the "Missouri Conservation Heritage Fund") must be received within 14 days of registration. **Pre-registration required.**

Introduction to Archery Basics

Sat, Dec 18th 9am



Thinking about getting yourself or someone else a Bow for Christmas and need to ensure you get the right one and size? Terms like recurve, longbow, compound, serving, limbs, riser, draw weight and length, kisser and eliminator buttons, cams, sight window, helical or offset, etc have you in a spin? This course will cover the ABC's of the sport and conclude on the archery range with opportunities to shoot our equipment or your own. Youth under 16 must attend with an adult. MDC will provide all equipment for the course. If bringing your own equipment, arrows with target/field tips only. **Pre-registration required.**

Normal December hours for shooting range operations are:

Open Fridays thru Tuesdays — 10am to 4pm

Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays (Office Open Only)
State/Federal Holidays, & Special Events

Range Location:

3500 Hwy D
Defiance, MO 63341

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Facilities

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 4414554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course Tue, Jan 4th thru Thu, Jan 6th 5:30pm each night



Hunter Education Certification Course, start time 5:30pm each night, open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test. Have problems making weekend course, want to miss the crowds? This class is for you, held on three consecutive week nights for those with busy weekends and tight schedules. **All courses are limited in size and require pre-registration.**

Birdfeeder Building Wed, Jan 19th 6pm



Are you handy at working with wood? Wanting to know some simple construction techniques for wildlife in your yard? You can use your skills to help bring wildlife to your yard. The “Woodworking for Wildlife” program includes bird feeders for your feathered friends. This is a hands-on program excellent for students, scout groups and 4-H students, as well as for anyone with a basic toolbox. Assembled and installed correctly, these wildlife feeders can bring great satisfaction to the woodworker when wildlife use them! Attendees will assemble a feeder and take it home with them along with plans for additional ones. Youth under 13 must be accompanied by an adult during the training and recommended for all others. **Pre-registration required.**

One of the primary purposes of hunting is to exercise our need to remain a part of the natural world.....*Jim Posewitz, author*

Normal January hours for Busch Shooting Range operations are:

Open Fridays thru Tuesdays — 10am to 4pm

Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays (Office Open Only)
State/Federal Holidays, & Special Events

Range Location:

3500 Hwy D
Defiance, MO 63341

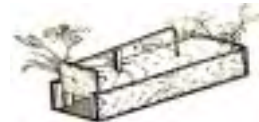
Range Rule to Remember....

“Always keep your firearm muzzle pointed straight up or down range at all times”

Many of us over the years have developed a habit of carrying our firearms with the muzzle pointed down while out in the field or we just learned it that way from our mentors. However, at a public range this is considered an unsafe way to transport or carry a firearm.

At our ranges there are ample amounts of concrete, asphalt, rocks, cars and other hard objects that could produce a ricochet if someone's firearm was to accidentally go off with the muzzle in a

Live Rabbit Trap I Building Sat, Jan 22nd 9am



Are you handy at working with wood? Wanting to know some simple construction techniques for capturing destructive rabbits in your yard without injury? The “Woodworking for Wildlife” program includes live rabbit traps similar to those used for generations. This is a hands-on program excellent for students, scout groups and 4-H students, as well as for anyone with a basic toolbox. Assembled and placed correctly, this trap can bring great satisfaction to the woodworker when successful! Attendees will assemble a trap and take it home with them along with plans for additional ones. Youth under 13 must be accompanied by an adult during the training and recommended for all others. **Pre-registration required.**

Wood Duck House Building Wed, Jan 26th 6pm



Wanting to know some simple construction techniques that can help waterfowl? You can use your skills to help bring wildlife to areas that provide excellent viewing. The “Woodworking for Wildlife” program includes various bird houses for your feathered friends. This is a hands-on program excellent for students, scout groups and 4-H students, as well as for anyone with a basic toolbox. Assembled and installed correctly, these houses can bring great satisfaction to the woodworker when wildlife use them! Attendees will assemble a house and take it home with them along with plans for additional ones. Youth under 13 must be accompanied by an adult during the training and recommended for all others. **Pre-registration required.**

downward direction. Additionally, due to the crowds of range users and their children, people are continually moving all around the area and keeping the muzzle from pointing in their direction is next to impossible.

On the range we only allow casing and uncasing of your fire arms inside your shooting booth or on the shotgun range with the muzzle pointed down range before handling it and removing it from the case. Due to the number of people on the benches, firing lines, booths, etc. uncasing a firearm on the rear benches or with the muzzle turned the wrong way in the booth can endanger many shooters as the muzzle passes them while uncasing.

Think of it this way; if you did not know an individual on the firing line would you feel comfortable with them pointing the muzzle in your direction, at you or your children. You do not know if it is accidentally loaded or unloaded, you just know the end of that barrel is pointed at you. This is why we watch and remind people so much on our firing lines about safety.

Additionally, people sometimes become complacent in our shooting booths with the sidewalls giving them a false sense of protection for themselves or others. These walls are made of ¼ or ½ inch plywood and provide no protection from rounds that might be fired from a firearm pointed in the wrong direction. So please remember this rule the next time you visit the range and THANK YOU for helping us keep our range a safe and enjoyable place to visit!.

Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

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DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Boy Scouts of America Rifle Merit Badge Program

December 1, 2004

December 4, 2004

6 p.m. – 9p.m. (lecture)

8a.m.- 12p.m. (range)



BSA rifle merit badge curriculum will be taught by BSA counselors/NRA Certified Rifle Instructors. Firearms, ammunition, eye & ear protection will be provided. Scout leaders must register each scout individually. Must attend as a scout organized activity. Each troop must provide adult supervision ratio 1 adult per 5 youths. Limited to 40 scouts.

National Rifle Association / Rifle Instructor Course

Dec 4, 2004 8a.m.-10a.m. Pre-course shooting proficiency

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2005 6p.m.-10p.m.

For Reservations call (314) 771-4293 or email
muzzlemaster57@yahoo.com

Fee required

In order to apply for an Instructor Certification, a candidate must: possess a solid background in firearms safety and shooting skills which were acquired through previous firearm training and/or previous shooting experience, with firearm appropriate for the NRA Instructor Certification rating you seek. We teach you

HOW-TO teach the NRA rifle student courses. Course Goals: To develop NRA Certified Instructors who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude to conduct a NRA firearm safety program.

Boy Scouts of America Shotgun Merit Badge Program

December 8, 2004

December 11, 2004

6p.m.-9p.m. (lecture)

8a.m.-12p.m. (range)



BSA shotgun merit badge curriculum will be taught by BSA counselors/NRA Certified Shotgun Instructors. Firearms, ammunition, eye & ear protection will be provided. Scout leaders must register each scout individually. Must attend as a scout organized activity. Each troop must provide adult supervision ratio 1 adult per 5 youths. Limited to 40 scouts.

Trapping Clinic

December 16, 2004

December 18, 2004

7p.m.-9p.m. (lecture)

6a.m.- 12p.m. (field & fleshing)



This 2 day clinic will teach you the basics to get started trapping such as raccoon, beaver, muskrat, and coyote. The classroom portion will introduce you to traps such as leg, snare, conibear type traps. The field work will consist of setting traps and fleshing or preparing your game hide. Youths under 16 years old must be with an adult.

"Special Memories" -- First Firearm

By Greg Toczyłowski, Henges Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Do you remember your very first firearm? I do. My first firearm was a Winchester Air Pump BB/Pellet gun combination. It was not a new firearm, but was a firearm given to me as a Christmas present by my grandfather. Not being new did not make this present any less special than if it was new.

Christmas is a time of year that many parents are considering buying their child a firearm. Many considerations should be given to this very important decision. First is the child mature enough to handle the responsibility of a firearm? Has the parent and child attended any firearms safety training? Parents would get the opportunity to see if the youth is ready for this responsibility.

Many times I am asked, what firearm would I recommend for their son or daughter? Considering my previous paragraph recommendations, the age of the child is where I would begin to answer this question. My general recommendations on the age of the child are based on my many years of experience in the shooting sports. The age of the child may vary, but for this purpose I will commit to these general recommendations and considerations. For youths 5 to 8 years old I would recommend air rifles. Air rifles have no recoil and will help develop good shooting fundamentals before recoil of a firearm is introduced to them at a later date.

Youths 8 to 11 years old consider a .22 or .243 caliber rifle, .410 or 20 gauge shotgun. This selection will have an additional application consideration of the use of the firearm for target shooting or hunting. This age group must be ready to experience the firearm recoil and discharge blast. Light powder charges are recommended. I will mention that I prefer the option of a 20 gauge shotgun (semi-auto) over the pumps, hinge action, .410, and bolt action rifles. Also, I

Normal December hours for Henges Shooting Range operations are:

Open Wednesdays thru Sundays — 10am to 4pm

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays (Office Open Only)
State/Federal Holidays, & Special Events

Range Location:

1100 Antire Rd.

High Ridge, MO 63049

recommend that telescopic scoped rifles not be introduced until the youth has perfected the use of adjustable iron sights.

Youths 11 to 15 years old can be a more challenging decision. With no experience with firearms mentioned in the previous to age groups you may need to consider using the 8 years to 11 years old recommendations. However, if they have firearms experience in the other two age groups, I would recommend .30 caliber class rifle and options of a 20, 16, or 12 gauge shotgun depending on the physical size and strength of the child. Telescopic scopes can be introduced to them on the rifles and shotgun action types, semi-auto, pump, bolt, or hinge will be determined by personal preference tied to the intended shooting activity; target and/or hunting.

I will not make any specific recommendations on firearm manufactures; you will need to do your own homework. What is important is that the firearm is designed for a youth not an adult. Girls may also need specific adjustments, because of physical differences from a boy. Firearm modifications maybe necessary to ensure proper fit. This should be done by a qualified gunsmith.

This Christmas your child may experience that special memory of their first firearm. I know I can still remember that Christmas morning. BE SAFE!

Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Brush pile Construction for Wildlife

January 8, 2005 8am - 10am

Learn how to construct brush piles for wildlife cover and winter survival. This program will include a lecture on how-to and a hands-on field demonstration. This is a great winter project for the whole family!

St. Louis Area Trout Fishing Seminar

January 6, 2005 6pm - 8pm

Since 1989, the MDC has stocked rainbow trout in the St. Louis area. This year MDC will stock over 36,000 trout in St. Louis City, Kirkwood, Ferguson, Ballwin, Overland, and the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. Come and learn when, where and how to catch rainbows in the St. Louis area.



Boy Scouts of America Rifle Merit Badge Program

January 19, 2005

January 22, 2005

6p.m.-9p.m. (lecture)

8a.m.-12p.m. (range)



BSA rifle merit badge curriculum will be taught by BSA counselors/NRA Certified Rifle Instructors. Firearms, ammunition, eye & ear protection will be provided. Scout leaders must register each scout individually. Must attend as a scout organized activity. Each troop must provide adult supervision ratio 1 adult per 5 youths. Limited to 40 scouts.

Women's Basic Handgun Orientation

January 20, 2005

January 22, 2005

6p.m.-8p.m. (lecture)

10a.m.-12p.m.

You will learn how to safely handle firearms, learn the basic parts of a handgun, how they work, shooting fundamentals, and will include live firing on the range. This course does not meet any state requirement for the concealed carry training. Must be an adult 21 years of age or above.

Missouri Hunter Education Student Course

January 29, 2005

January 30, 2005

9a.m.-4p.m.

9a.m.-4p.m.



The Missouri Hunter Education Student Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years of age to be certified. Proof of age (birth certificate) will be necessary for those students 11 to 13 years old. Students must pass a written exam to become certified. Topics include: Hunter Ethics and responsibilities, Firearms & Ammunition, Firearms safety, Hunter & Conservation, Shooting Skills, Wildlife Identification, First Aide and survival techniques. Must be at least 11 years old to be certified. This is a 2 day course. **MUST** attend both days!

National Rifle Association / Shotgun Instructor Course

Jan 29, 2005 8a.m.-10a.m. Pre-course shooting proficiency

March 1,8,15,22,&29, 2005 6p.m.-10p.m.

For Reservations call (314)771-4293 or email muzzlemaster57@yahoo.com

Fee required

In order to apply for an Instructor Certification, a candidate must: possess a solid background in firearms safety and shooting skills which were acquired through previous firearm training and/or previous shooting experience, with firearm appropriate for the NRA Instructor Certification rating you seek. We teach you HOW-TO teach the NRA shotgun student courses. Course Goals: To develop NRA Certified Instructors who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude to conduct a NRA firearm safety program.

When purchasing a tree stand or setting one up, as stand heights increase the size of the kill zone decreases because of the steeper shot angle.

Range Volunteers Make a Difference

By Greg Toczylowski, Henges Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Are you a self motivated individual with good communication skills that likes sharing your outdoor experiences and knowledge with others? This maybe your ticket to a new adventure!

The Missouri Conservation Department started an official range volunteer program 10 years ago to assist the personnel at their 4 staffed shooting ranges: August A. Busch Memorial, Lake City, Andy Dalton, and Jay Henges. Since then a new range & outdoor education center, Parma Woods, has been added to the MDC staffed facilities.

Originally the volunteer program was to be value added to assisting MDC personnel, primarily with shooter assistance and range rule compliance during public range operations. Today the MDC Shooting Ranges & Outdoor Education Centers has greatly expanded their programs and services at these facilities and the range volunteers have played a valued role in this expansion. Today the range volunteer does not only continue to assist shooters and maintain range rule compliance, but also assist with hunter education programs, firearm instructional courses, outdoor skills curriculum, archery programs, youth day camps, youth hunting clinics, hunt guides, fishing seminars, trapping clinics, primitive skills, special events, and MORE!

Normal January hours for Henges Shooting Range operations are:

Open Wednesdays thru Sundays — 10am to 4pm

Closed Mondays & Tuesdays (Office Open Only)
State/Federal Holidays, & Special Events

Range Location:

1100 Antire Rd.
High Ridge, MO 63049

The range volunteers are unique individuals that are from many employment and outdoor experience backgrounds. It is this personal diversity that makes this program so exciting to be apart of. They are committed to the mission of the MDC Shooting Ranges & Outdoor Education Centers and give freely of their time & talent.

If you would like to be part of this self rewarding and challenging volunteer program contact the Outdoor Education Center Supervisor at the August A. Busch or the Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center.

Remember to check us out on the web for additions, updates and future programs.
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch or www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges



St. Louis Region Hunter Education Certification Courses

ALL COURSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

The Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit or Deer and Turkey Transportation Tags. Many of our free Youth Manage Hunts and Clinics require both youth and adult to be certified.

Open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have an adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend all sessions and pass an exam to become certified.

Topics included: Hunter Ethics and Responsibility, Firearms and Ammunition, Firearms Safety, Hunter Preparation, First Aid and Survival, Hunter Skills, Primitive Hunting Equipment, and Wildlife Conservation, Management and Identification.

Seating is limited, so reserve your place early and check on any special requirements, bringing of lunches, or fees needed for that location. All regional classes scheduled can be seen on the regional web site at: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

St. Charles County

Location: August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Date: Dec 7th thru 9th
Time: 5:30pm to 9:30pm each night
Registration#: (636) 441-4554

Location: August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Date: Jan 4th thru 6th
Time: 5:30pm to 9:30pm each night
Registration#: (636) 441-4554

St. Louis County

Location: Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center
Date: Jan 29th & 30th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 441-4554

“Grandpa Tell Me About The Good Old Days”

The Bonds Built of Strong Outdoor Memories

By Tony Legg, Busch Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

My daughter told her mother and me years ago about how when she heard this song by the Judd's she thought of her Grandpa Hoffmeister and how it should be played at his funeral when the time came. Wanting to write and say something special about Grandpa I took a cue from my daughter and listened to that song over and over. In it I found what she heard, the pictures it created in my mind, the stories, the emotions all came flooding into my being. Teary eyed, lump in my throat, I typed away at this, continually thinking back on my memories.

Grandpa was a weaver of tales, taking me on journeys through his life that vividly came to life in my mind's eye. Many times we would walk through fields and woods where trails and roads long since grown over and gone, would bring a tale of his adventures through life. Whether it was delivering feed or groceries for MFA, or tall tales of hunting, dogs, and friends. Drives in the country, became drives through time, talking of families long since moved, homes long since gone, and times now only alive in the minds of those living then. But, it was funny how he could make me feel as though I was there, that I lived that life too.

Grandpa was also a prankster and a jester with some of his tales, leading you off on an adventure or tale only to find out it was a tease or joke. Many a time did he have me going and suckered me right to the end. I felt embarrassed a little for being taken, but smiled and thought how easily it was to believe and fall into his yarn. His easy going flow of words and old

time country innocence gave you the feeling that everything he said was some how true and you could trust those words only to be led into some silly story's ending.

A brother, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a buddy, a friend, never have I heard nothing but wonderful words and stories about my grandpa. Grandpa came from a time when a promise meant something and fulfilling it was not forgotten or taken lightly. He came from a time when communities were like families, everyone knowing everyone, everyone helping everyone, and everyone caring for each other. Grandpa gave me my sense of belonging to something bigger than myself and that there was an incredible link between everyone and our pasts.

From the first time my wife Susan met Grandma and Grandpa, she fell in love with them, always telling of how much she loved them. How their depth of loved showed through, not by some outward display of affection, but just by their daily actions and routines. She always talked about how she hoped that our lives could be so rich and so close, that she hoped we could have a love so deep.

Seems that much of my time with grandpa was in the outdoors, gardening, hunting and fishing. Many of my stories I now tell to others stem from those times. Times we spent driving through the country side or hammering in tomato stakes. Times sitting quietly waiting for squirrels to start moving, or for a wary ole' tom turkey to come to his call, or that bass to pull our bobbbers under. And times spent walking the fields hunting quail and rabbits, or wading a fishing stream, where it seemed grandpa never tired and always tested my stamina. I miss my hunting and fishing buddy, my friend, my grandpa and “Grandpa telling me about the good old days.”

(Reprint of Tony's tribute to his late grandfather Lloyd Hoffmeister)

Remember to check us out on the web for additions, updates and future programs.

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis



Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
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www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

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Look On The Web And Register For Our Up Coming Outdoor Programs Here Are Just A Few!

www.mdc.gov/areas/stlouis

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch or www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

February

At Busch

8th thru 10th Hunter Education Certification Course

19th Beginning Fly Fishing

16th Building a Wren and Chickadee House

At Henges

5th Introductction to Metallic Cartridge Reloading part I

5th Wood Working for Wildlife Program

19th Reloading Metallic Cartridge Reloading part II

March

At Henges

2nd Beginning Backpacking

5th Shotgun Patterning

19th Youth Turkey Hunting Clinic

At Busch

8th thru 10th Hunter Education Certification Course

12th Advanced Fly Fishing

23rd and 30th Fly Tying

Outdoor Education Center Volunteers Wanted

Do you like working with people of all ages? We are continually looking for individuals who enjoy sharing their time, love for the outdoors and dedication to conservation. If you are interested contact us at:

Busch (636) 300-1953 ext 251

Henges (636) 938-9548

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